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SATURDAY, - - - AUG. 9, 1890.

DID HE VIOLATE HIS OATH?

Col. FRANK G. RUFFIN, our Second Auditor for this state seems to have brooded over existing conditions and pictured in his mind those which are to be such an extent that he has apparently become literally crazed upon that subject. In the Philadelphia Press of the 29th ult. he is quoted as giving voice to expressions which appear not only incendiary and treasonable but in direct violation of obligations which he as a sworn servant of the people has taken. Mr. RUFFIN could not hold office without, and accordingly took the following oath:

I, FRANK G. RUFFIN, do declare myself a citizen of the commonwealth of Virginia, and do solemnly swear that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States; and the Constitution and laws of the state of Virginia; that I recognize and accept the civil and political equality of all men before the law and that I will faithfully perform the duty of Second Auditor, to the best of my ability. So help me God.

It will be understood that he is pledged not only to speak in favor of the Constitution and laws of the United States, but not to speak against them.

He is sworn not to give aid or comfort to any unfriendly power, or encourage an attack upon this sovereign nation.

But, says Mr. RUFFIN in his oath, "I accept the civil and political equality of all men [this includes Negroes] before the law." But he is quoted by the Press correspondent as having said to him:

"You represent a Republican newspaper, sir, and you should know that I have nothing in common with Republicans. They are my enemies." When assured, however, that his views, what ever they might be, would be correctly reported, Col. Ruffin said: "At this time our relations with England are unsettled. For my part I am free to say that if the spirit of the 'forced' bill actuates the people of the North, as I believe it does, then they are more our enemies than any foreign nation, and I should sympathize with any European power that would make war upon this Government. When the Republicans make war on my people by putting tamed savages over the head of the civilized white men—for that is what the Negro of to-day is—then I become their enemies. They thereby proclaim a policy which no foreign nation has ever avowed, and I should not care, in case of invasion by Great Britain, to see the British navy sink every vessel belonging to the United States, destroy every city on the Atlantic Coast, and shell every habitation on the lakes from Duluth to Buffalo. When the Republicans seek the ruin of my country, the South, I wish all the harm to their country that can possibly befall it."

Here is a man who apparently, in order that he might draw a salary of \$2000 sworn to accept equality of the civil and political equality of "tamed savages" before the law, and then on another breath declares that he really accepts nothing of the kind. Gentlemen of the North, how does that comport with ethics taught in this country? He is in line with his Party, which stands in favor of England by advocating a free trade policy to the detriment of the laboring people of this country. But, how do Irishmen like Mr. RUFFIN's assertion concerning their inveterate enemy, England? What do they say to Mr. RUFFIN's proposed war on a section which has furnished thousands of dollars to the Irish Land League and served to strengthen the arms of PARNELL in his struggle for Irish liberty?

What say they to Mr. RUFFIN's declarations in favor of that government which is known for its coercion acts, eviction decrees, and Balfour iron rule in the land of the shamrock and the flag of the Irish green. Nay more, what say the people of the South? He

would destroy cities that in the South's direst need, when scourged with yellow-fever with lavish hands poured thousands of dollars into the lap of their stricken sister, and sent hundreds of nurses and physicians to minister and to save.

Mr. RUFFIN would mutilate the hand that saved and palsy in death the tongue that gave forth words of sympathy to follow in the tracks of substantial aid.

The Press correspondent asked if this opinion was that of many of the people of the South. Mr. RUFFIN replied:

"I am perhaps too old to answer positively for them all, but in this expression I think I may safely say that I formulate the opinion of nineteen-twentieths of the white voters of Virginia when I say that any white man in a free state who would buy or intimidate a white voter deserves to be sent to the penitentiary, and any white Democrat in a black state who could buy or intimidate a black voter and compel him to vote against the north or Republicans, and who refuses to do so, deserves to be hung."

Let the thinking men of the nation read and ponder these sections. Col. RUFFIN should know that to buy or intimidate a black voter or to compel him to vote against his wishes is in direct violation of the laws of the United States, and yet he with a depravity that is amazing boldly, declares that any man, including himself who would not violate those laws, deserves to be hung.

What a disgrace upon Virginia that she should have within her confines a man who would give voice to such expressions. Any man who would in sober moments take a solemn oath, and in equally sober moments violate the same with impunity is a winning candidate for the honors of hell, and must wear the laurels bestowed by the Devil Incarnate upon those who traverse outside the beaten track of the hardened sinner.

God knows before such expressions we stand appalled and wonder if Christianity with some is a failure and Justice a mockery in the land of the free.

But Mr. RUFFIN advocates the exportation of the Negro to Africa as a solution of the difficulty and in reply to the query as to how it could be brought about says:

"By ceasing to waste southern money on Negro schools and converting it into a fund for his deportation by offering him free land and education in Africa, both to be furnished by the Europeans. The Negro regards what he calls education as only another form of fetich and he will submit to be transported across the Atlantic Ocean to get it."

Where he gets his authority for saying that the Negro "will submit to be transported across the Atlantic Ocean" is one of the puzzles of the 19th century. But mark Mr. RUFFIN's language. He says further:

"I can speak only for the State of Virginia. I think if she should restrict the emigrants to the breeding part of their population, as suggested by the author of 'An Appeal to Pharaoh,' denying the privilege of emigration to either sex over thirty-five years of age the funds in time would accomplish."

It will be seen that he is unwilling for all of the Negroes to go.

The reason will be readily understood that white men of Mr. RUFFIN's age who have Negro sweethearts desire them to remain and be buried in this country. It might also be inferred that these white men would not desire their Negro children to be exported to Africa, for the very rule which would require the mothers to remain in this country would cause the children to refuse to leave their parents.

But if Mr. RUFFIN's plan was carried into effect, he seems oblivious of the fact that by his scheme he would make numerous and bitter enemies among his own people. Those houses so finely kept in Jail Alley and other sections of this city would lose their attractiveness when those buxom damsels under thirty-five years of age would be forced to leave for the sunny land of Africa.

When such a plan is put into operation with Mr. RUFFIN as the Moses, truly the office of the 2d Auditor will be overrun with beseeching white men's Negro children and the pleading and threatening tones of the white men themselves. Let Mr. RUFFIN find another scheme which can enlist popular support. Let him study his sworn obligations, and let him keep silent when he is questioned by a newspaper correspondent.

Of all of the efforts from Virginia which have been put forth to secure the passage of the Federal Election Bill, none have been so effective as Col. FRANK G. RUFFIN's interview with the Philadelphia Press correspondent.

The Bourbon Democratic journals have seen fit to malign and abuse Hon. EDMUND WADDILL, Jr. of the 3rd Congressional Dis-

trict for his vote on the Federal Election Bill. They might have saved themselves the trouble.

Congressman WADDILL represented the sentiment of the majority of his constituents. The most people in this District are in favor of honest elections. They condemn fraud and trickery. Congressman WADDILL stood true to their principles and did what he could to render most effective the bill for the securing of honest elections; a free ballot and a fair count.

It is stated that the OZAR has exiled all of the Jews from Russia. In other word he has given them notice to leave the country.

It would seem that this inhuman persecution should cause this class of people to deeply sympathize with the oppressed Afro-Americans.

Colored men, the liberal minded white men of the South are not all dead. Let us be courageous, and we are bound to win.

Colored men, cease being jealous of one another. Stop these intestine quarrels. We are the oppressed people of this country and cannot afford to be treacherous to one another. Strive to live in peace with one another. Stay out of the Police Court with your petty quarrels. Bridle your tongue and halt your selfish ambition and all will be well.

Don't let us be discouraged. Col. FRANK G. RUFFIN and his kind can't live always. God is removing those fossils one by one. Soon they will be gathered home. Some friendly undertaker is looking at them now with a longing eye. Let us pray and have hope, and God will bring all things right in his own time.

The indications are that the Federal Election Bill will pass, thank the Lord.

If it does, a new era is about to dawn. There will be no Negro domination as a result of its provisions but the laboring white and black men will vote to the best interest of all the people.

Some Colored men are black and ugly, but they are useful and obedient, and can be relied upon to defend the government and to add to its material prosperity. In reality they are the finest set of men in the country.

It isn't every race of people that can be cursed, abused, hanged, butchered, riddled with bullets and yet acquire land, educate their children, and keep a great country in continued agitation on account of their not being allowed their rights before the law. Great is the Negro!

What is prettier than a little curly-headed, ebony-hued black-boy with pearly teeth, finely formed features, neatly attired, and with common-sense to correspond. He is admired by all beholders, and he himself feels sad at the fact that to the best of his knowledge he'll be white in heaven.

Every man should be glad that he is a Negro. The very oppression which is being forced upon him like a pall is working wonderful results, trying him in the furnace of fire and bringing him out a new race regenerated and redeemed. Who wouldn't be a Negro?

If there ever was a needed measure it is the Federal Election Bill.

There is no doubt of the South being misrepresented in Congress. Fancy the representatives of the overwhelming black districts standing in that body, and talk against the right of their constituents to vote. Was ever such an anomaly presented before?

Colored men, the darkest cloud will soon pass away. We see in the distance a rim of sunshine. It is called the Federal Election Bill.

Let us stand to our integrity. Let us vote according to what we believe to be right or not vote at all. Let us defy the mandates of the Bourbons, and respect the law.

If we could stand the fires of persecution in reconstruction day, we can maintain ourselves against any animosities which may arise from the enforcement of the law.

We have received the Reference Book of the N. & W. R. Co. It is indeed a thing of beauty, elaborately illustrated as it is, outlining

the present condition of progress in mining, manufactures and agriculture of the State of Virginia.

Removing Political Disabilities.

Congress for the close of the Rebellion occupied, with the applause and approval of all parties, the political disabilities of those who had taken part in the war after taking an oath of allegiance to the United States.

"Another Mississippi" is a sufficient publican candidate. We have repeated the steps to be taken at some time or other.

The man who will not accept of laws without being compelled to respect them by all the force of the law is not a citizen. There are no local laws that are not just to one and just to all.

Mr. Thompson's standing straight Country Reformers. We are not to be misled by the promises of the reformers.

Gov. Gordon writes a letter to the Herald, expressing his disapproval of the Federal election bill. The governor can look at the Negro cheated out of his vote, shot down as rabbits and butchered up as fresh pork, and not raise his voice against it; but soon as the government attempts to protect the ballot box and some of its own citizens, then Gov. Gordon is off with sounding the tocsin for war.

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